

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Applicant and the undersigned wish to thank Examiner Barney and SPE Scherbel for the courtesies extended during the interview of November 8, 2005. The Amendments discussed during the interview have been presented above and the arguments made are repeated herein for the record.

Claims 1-3, 6, 8-11, 13-15, 18, and 25-37 are now pending. Claims 4-5, 7, 12, 16-17, 19-24 and 36 have been canceled as directed to non-elected species. Applicant reserves the right to file divisional application(s) for the subject matter not granted herein.

Claims 1-3, 6, 8-11, 13-15, 18, 35 and 36 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Aoki [sic Aoki] et al. in view of Zimmerman. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. As noted by the Examiner, in Figure 2 Aoki discloses an injection hole plate having a thin portion through which the injection holes are defined and a thick wall portion located radially outward of the thin wall portion and having a wall thickness greater than that of the thin wall portion. As recognized by the Examiner, however, Aoki does not teach or suggest that a portion of the injection hole plate radially outward of the thick wall portion is welded to the valve body and/or nozzle holder. Indeed, the only mention of "weld" in the Aoki disclosure at column 5, lines 46-42 is with regard to fixing valve body 29 to an inner wall of cylindrical member 14.

The Examiner seeks to overcome the deficiencies of Aoki with respect to applicant's claims 1 and 13 by relying upon the secondary reference to Zimmerman. In this regard the Examiner notes that Zimmerman discloses a "plate" welded (25) to valve body (16). However, as can be seen in Figures 1 and 2, the injection hole plate of Zimmerman is identified with reference numeral 23. As explained in the paragraph

bridging columns 2 and 3 of Zimmerman, reference numeral 21 identifies a support plate that has a passage opening 22. It is support plate 21 that is welded by weld seam 25 to valve seat member 16. The injection hole plate 23 is not welded directly to the valve seat member 16. Rather, it is held in place by plate 21.

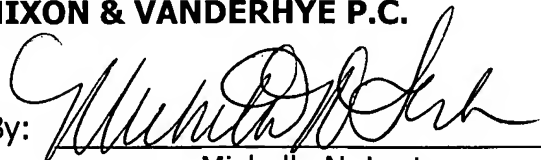
Since the injection hole plate 23 is not welded directly to valve body 16 or some other component, the injection hole plate could possibly be displaced, i.e., moved, by the fuel pressure at the time of fuel injection, resulting in unstable fuel injection. Such movement of the injection hole plate could possibly be amplified if the support plate 21 is deformed, for example by the fuel pressure at the time of fuel injection, particularly at the time of applying high fuel pressure. Because claims 1 and 13 specify that the injection hole plate is welded to the valve body or the nozzle holder, the above noted disadvantage of Zimmerman is avoided with the invention.

Therefore, Zimmerman does not teach or suggest the invention as recited in claims 1 and 13, to wit: a portion of the injection hole plate is welded to one of the valve body and the nozzle holder. Therefore, neither claim 1 nor claim 13 are anticipated by nor obvious from Aoki and Zimmerman, taken alone or in combination.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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